

CLAIMS:

1. A method for the screening of ligands which bind a cerebral cortical voltage-dependent
5 calcium channel $\alpha_2\delta$ -1 subunit, said method comprising the steps of:
- contacting a secreted soluble recombinant calcium channel $\alpha_2\delta$ -1 subunit polypeptide with:
 - a ligand of interest; and
 - a labelled compound which binds the $\alpha_2\delta$ -1 subunit; and
 - 10 - measuring the level of binding of the labelled compound to the $\alpha_2\delta$ -1 subunit.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said contacting and said binding is in a well of a flashplate.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said secreted soluble recombinant calcium channel $\alpha_2\delta$ -1 subunit polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 15.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said secreted soluble recombinant calcium
20 channel $\alpha_2\delta$ -1 subunit polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 9 and 15.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said secreted soluble recombinant calcium channel $\alpha_2\delta$ -1 subunit polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 9.

25